



Our Church's Wider Mission Giving

To all our churches, thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of the Conference and National work through your OCWM giving for 2015 of \$132,443. OCWM stands for "Our Church's Wider Mission" and is the linchpin for Southeast Conference ministry.

As the graph below shows, through September 30, we are behind where we should be in support. To make our very conservative year-end budget of \$245,000, payments from churches will need to exceed \$112,000 in the next 3 months.

2015 YTD OCWM SEC Church Giving as of 9/30/15



If your church can make a payment now rather than waiting until year end, it would help so much. If you need to discuss your church's giving, please contact Rev. Boutwell.

Our 50th Anniversary Commemorative Calendar

Starting the first week of December, YOUR church will be receiving a packet of calendars to sell. You do not need to place an order. We will send appropriate quantities to every church, based upon your size. Our hope is that you can sell all the 2016 calendars to your congregation during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Suggested donation is \$15.00 per calendar and \$3.00 of that will go back to your church for mission work and the remainder back to the Conference. You also have the option of selling the calendars for \$12.00 each and all the net proceeds will all go toward supporting the Southeast Conference 50th year Anniversary Celebration next year. More details will be provided with the calendar packet.



Michael McCaulley Ordination

Michael McCaulley was ordained at Peace Congregational UCC in Clemson, South Carolina on October 21, 2015 with extended family, colleagues from the Hospice of Upstate, and members of the congregation present.

Michelle Holtmann and June Boutwell represented the Southeast



We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2015. Each month, we will publish a weekly list for the month and post them weekly on our Facebook page. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers.

- [Click here to download the November and December prayer list](#)
- [Click here to download the entire 2015 prayer list](#)

Highlights for September:

- We celebrate the ordination of **Michael McCaulley** on October 21, 2015. He is a hospice chaplain at Hospice of the Upstate. Michael is a member of Peace Congregational in Clemson SC. We also invite continued prayer as he and his family meet the challenges of his medical condition.
- Prayers for **Laurie Hill** as she is challenged by a medical issue. She is serving Fairfield Glade Community Church in Tennessee.
- For **Columbia, South Carolina** and **Garden of Grace UCC** as they continue to recover from flooding.
- For **Memorial Congregational Church UCC** on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in Cannon Ball, N.D. Their building burned to the ground on October 11, 2015. This has been one of the sites that Garden of Grace has served in their annual mission trip to the Dakota Association. ([Learn more about the fire on our website.](#))
- **Jodi Yarini** will be installed as licensed pastor at Decatur UCC on November 1.
- Brookmeade Congregational UCC in Nashville has called **Rev. Sharon Temple** as a Designated Transitional Minister for a two year term. She will begin November 1.
- Prayers for **Peace Congregational UCC** in Clemson SC as they convene on November 1 to vote on a candidate for a designated position.

Churches in Transition:

Oak Grove Congregational Christian, Pine Mountain Georgia; Church of the Savior, Alpharetta Georgia; Peace Congregational UCC, Clemson South Carolina; Pensacola UCC, Pensacola Florida; Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga Tennessee; Brookmeade Congregational UCC, Nashville Tennessee; Howard Congregational UCC, Nashville Tennessee; Beloved Community, Birmingham Alabama; First United Church, Belvidere Tennessee.

As we enter the month of November, many things loom on the horizon. We change our clocks and have to deal with the time dislocation and disruption in our sleep and appetite patterns. We begin to think about planning for Advent and pageants and Christmas Eve service. And in the midst of that is squeezing in Thanksgiving and shopping and cooking and family dynamics.

Life in the Conference office reflects some of this busyness. One important thing we are dealing with is that the Arthritis Foundation, where we have been leasing for a number of years, has sold the building and we will be moving in December. We have not yet completed a lease agreement but will get that word out as soon as we have completed documents in hand. We will be closer to downtown and still accessible by MARTA.



We are working on the capital campaign grant applications and reminding people that we need their OCRM contributions so we can finish the year in a stable place. We are sorting through files and making decisions about boxes and dumpsters. We are working on the 2016 budget which has been more complicated this year with the move and some other ministry considerations.

October is also a month when many national meetings happen so I have been traveling practically non-stop for the last five weeks. I have been with the Council of Conference Ministers, at a meeting of the Regional Theological Education Consortium, the Alabama Tennessee Association meeting, the Southern/Southeast joint Retired Servants Retreat, and the Southern Region Women's Retreat. All were important and enjoyable but I am looking forward to being more office based for the rest of the year and tending to the needs of pastors and churches as we all prepare for the new year.

May you enter this season of thanksgiving and this time of preparation with a glad heart and attention to the movement of the Spirit among us, between us, and within us.

Save the Date

November 13 - PATHWAYS Commencement
Hope United Church of Christ, Saint Louis, MO

January 1, 2016 - National Youth Event Registration Opens

January 15-18, 2016 - Winter Youth Retreat
Blowing Rock Conference Center, Blowing Rock NC

July 26-29, 2016 - National Youth Event in Orlando, Florida
(http://www.ucc.org/news_national_youth_event_2016_09232015)



Transforming Churches - Transforming Lives Grants

In the next Conference Connection newsletter we will announce the SEC Churches being awarded Cycle 2 Transforming Churches - Transforming Lives Grants. Grant applications were accepted through October 31 for this fall cycle. Churches who applied and had their project qualified will be awarded a grant (of up to \$5,000) based upon committee decision. These Church Grants will be made over the next several years and have been made possible by the 5-year Capital Campaign pledges. A note to all who have not finished their pledge payments for 2015: please consider finishing your pledge to the Capital Campaign.



Transforming Churches • Transforming Lives
SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Winter Youth Retreat 2016

Southeast and Southern Conference youth and leaders are invited to come together January 15-17 at the Blowing Rock Conference Center in the Great Smoky Mountains for a weekend of worship, service, snow, and fun as we take time to build relationships and nurture our faith. This year we will consider the question asked in the Gospel of Luke, "Who is my neighbor?"



Special guests for the weekend include Rev. Waltrina Middleton, the National UCC Minister for Youth Advocacy & Leadership Formation and Alatheia, an acoustic, americana-folk, singer-songwriter, harmony-driven female duo from the mountains of Tennessee (alatheia.com).

The Winter Youth committee this year is Lacey Brown (Southeast Conference), Sharon Wheeler and Elizabeth Schiemann (Southern Conference).

Visit the Blowing Rock Conference Website for more details and registration forms: <http://www.brccenter.org/winter-youth-retreat.html>

2015 Southern Region Women's Retreat

"Celebrate The Lord of the Dance" was the theme for the 2015 Southern Region Women's Retreat. This retreat was hosted by the Southeast Conference. Over 120 UCC women attended from the Southern, Southeast, South Central and Florida conferences.

Sumatanga Conference Center in Gallant, Alabama was the setting for rest, renewal and rejuvenation. The retreat featured morning vesper services in the chapel, opening worship led by Leslie Etheredge, Saturday evening Taize service led by Clara Benson, and Sunday morning closing communion led by June Boutwell. Other activities included danceshops (not workshops), a silent auction, a fair trade store, and a meaningful service project.

Bus loads of women poured into the beautiful mountain setting where the leaves were just beginning to become fall picture perfect, and the lake was still and silent. Rocking chairs on the porch and beautiful weather were a great combination to foster a reflective atmosphere. Music and dance was provided by Safe Harbor Family UCC in Flowood, Mississippi which was lively and had everyone moving and swaying. The service project was led by Eunice Carrasco-Hill from Franklinton Center at Bricks, "Literacy: Learning through Rhythm", and provided books for Birmingham preschoolers.

Danceshops were inspiring. Topics included *Rising from the Ashes*, *New Members: Moving Forward*, *Practicing Intimacy with God*, *Dancing with the Stranger*, *Making a Joyful Move*, *Stories in Black and White*, *Caring for Ourselves*, *Dancing Liturgically*, *Learning to Heal Ourselves*, *Holy Humor*, *Crossing Borders*, *Boogieing with the Bible Babes*.

Thanks to Rev. Jasmine Quinerly of South Central Conference for the original article. The 2017 Southern Region Women's Event will be hosted by the South Central Conference,



Atlanta minister makes journey to Canada to witness history, celebrate friendship

The Rev. Joyce Myers-Brown spent three days driving from her Atlanta home to Niagara Falls, Ontario, to witness the full communion celebration between the United Church of Christ and The United Church of Canada. She broke the drive up over three days, arriving one day ahead of the Oct. 17 shared worship service she was determined to attend.

Three days of travel for a 90-minute service. "To me, it was important that I see these two churches coming together, and knowing someone from The United Church of Canada helped make the decision easier," said Myers-Brown, a UCC minister and former missionary. "I wanted to be part of this historic occasion."

Read more on the UCC website:

http://www.ucc.org/news_atlanta_minister_makes_journey_to_canada_102222015

Garden of Grace Recovering from South Carolina Flooding

Garden of Grace in Columbia, South Carolina continues to recover from the flooding in the area. They have received an emergency grant from UCC Disaster Response Ministries to address immediate needs. On October 31, staff from UCC Disaster Response Ministries met with Rev. Andy Sidden, June Boutwell and other local agencies to discuss long-term recovery.

First Congregational United Church of Christ of Huntington, West Virginia has also partnered with Garden of Grace in their recovery efforts in the community. Meanwhile, Garden of Grace is working with Timmerman School in Forest Acres, SC as they recover from the flooding.

You may still make contributions through the UCC Wider Church Ministries by sending funds to the Emergency USA fund with the checks noted for South Carolina Flooding. The address is 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland OH 44115.



Upper Room Fellowship Fall Gathering

Once again, Howard Congregational Church UCC hosted the Upper Room Fellowship Gathering for the Nashville churches. After a delicious and abundant potluck supper, Tony England brought greetings from the Fellowship and we were welcomed by the leadership of Howard. And, as always, wonderful music from the choir was an enriching experience for all those gathered.

The theme of the evening was "Standing in the Need of Prayer." June Boutwell was the speaker and blessed the gathering with a message that reminded those present that there is a difference between prayers and prayerfulness. The next gathering will be in the spring.



Traci Blackmon to lead UCC Justice and Witness Ministries

A prominent community leader, a gifted preacher and a much-loved pastor and teacher has been appointed as the acting executive of UCC Justice and Witness Ministries.

The Rev. Traci Blackmon, pastor of Christ The King UCC, in Florissant, Mo., called by the United Church of Christ General Minister and President and the UCC Board chair and vice-chair, and appointed to the position by an enthusiastic and unanimous vote of the Board of Directors, looks forward to beginning her work with the national offices.

Read the full story on the UCC website:

http://www.ucc.org/news_traci_blackmon_to_lead_ucc_justice_and_witness_ministries_10212015

A 5-Point Plan for the United Church of Christ

John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ has shared a Five-Point Plan for the national setting.

A summary of the five initiatives:

- Stillspeaking 2.0 will provide a local church toolkit.
- A campaign for 12 media events in 2016 to live out the UCC commitment as a bold public witness.
- Change the ethos and culture of the UCC by addressing the distance between the national setting and local churches. Part of this initiative is identifying 30 national staffpersons to develop staff training materials and place a call a day to a local church.
- Open a meaningful, substantive and safe dialogue on white privilege as a continuing part of Sacred Conversations on Race. This will include a curriculum for use in all settings of the UCC proposed to be ready by fall 2016.
- Intentional strategic planning process that will include the following questions:
 - What is working and will make a difference?
 - What is working but won't matter?
 - How willing are we to let it go?
 - What's missing?



You may view the 25 minute video on You Tube on the United Church of Christ channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5BPOYfOweE>

[Read more on the UCC website...](#)

UCC FACT Report

Each year the United Church of Christ participates in an ecumenical data collection project and produces denominational specific reports. There was a public call for responses to the survey and the UCC Center for Analytics, Research and Data sent out 500 paper copies to rural and racial/ethnic identified churches. 910 UCC congregations responded resulting in an 18% response rate. Links are provided below for the video presentation and the FACT sheets presented in a previous webinar. It might be interesting to compare your local church to the UCC data results.

Video presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r314o-l3QQ4>

PDF: <http://uccfiles.com/pdf/UCC-FACT-2015-Webinar.pdf>

Part-time Accompanist Position Available

Pilgrimage United Church of Christ in Marietta is seeking a part-time accompanist. The position of Musician/Accompanist is a very important ministry as it relates to the church's worship style. Pilgrimage is non-traditional by nature but come expecting the familiar, as well as some service elements that are new-to-you! Regardless of the style of worship, the service is true to the biblical text and how it applies to 'real life.' The purpose of the position is to facilitate an atmosphere in which God is worshipped and glorified, and to contribute to the music ministry of the Church by playing the piano for congregational singing, choir and special music presented in worship services. This is a part time, 7-12 hours per week, support staff position with duties primarily on Sundays (with some additional time during Christmas, Holy Week, and Easter seasons). Salary will be based upon experience and proficiency but will start at \$11,000 per year. Please send your resume to the Hiring Committee at pjo5359@bellsouth.net.

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